

Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board Minutes for November 2010 Meeting

Wednesday, November 10, 2010 6:00 p.m.

Seattle City Hall Boards and Commissions Room L280

Meeting called to order by Chair Tom Williams

In attendance: Jen Calleja, Mark Bandy, Seth Schromen-Wawrin, Tom Williams, Kristen Lohse, Greg Brey, Jon Morgan, Ben Smith, Mark Landreaneau, Christina Bollo
Public attendance: Jacob Struiksma

October Meeting Minutes were not adopted as few board members were able to read them prior to the meeting.

No public comment this evening

NE 45th St Transit Improvements

Bill Bryant from Seattle Dept of Transportation returned to follow up on one item of this project, the Midvale Place bus lane and associated pedestrian changes.

A graphic of the location was passed out to the board and Mr. Bryant talked through the details. The location is just east of Aurora Ave and would a bus lane for westbound 44 routes. Analysis has shown the lane could save buses an average of one to one and half minutes. In order to create the lane, the sidewalk running along Midvale Pl needs to be re-routed so that the path would then do a north and then west 90 degree, rather than the current diagonal along Midvale Pl. Additional pedestrian-scale lighting would be provided as part of the re-route.

Project design is at about the 60% completion point so any board comments would be needed by the end of Nov. City also applied for \$200k grant to add in more curb ramp work and it appears they will be successful in receiving the grant money.

Discussion:

Seth – did SDOT consider a ‘shared-space’ idea rather than a typical cul-de-sac?

A: yes, however adjacent residences were not keen on the idea as it might affect garbage service and/or availability of parking

Seth – what about pavement types for the cul-de-sac? Has consideration been given to permeable pavements such as grass-crete?

A: existing pavement is in good condition and project budget does not currently allow for pavement replacement

Ben – what type of outreach with local community has been done? Perhaps they would be interested in pocket park creation.

A: project and this location have been discussed with Wallingford Community Council; idea of pocket park was never raised

Ben – have you looked at providing benches or other sitting opportunities?

A: no, but will take that into consideration

Kristen – are you considering spaces within the cul-de-sac that would enable the neighbors to “own” the space and help manage it; planting locations was mentioned

A: will take that into consideration
Christina – recommended that they use “green factor” landscaping guide from the city as part of the plan

Linden Ave Complete Street Project

Connie Zimmerman and David Vijarro from SDOT described the project to construct sidewalks and buffered bike lanes on Linden Ave in North Seattle.

The project is a 17 block complete street development, from N 128th St to N 145th St, through a mixed use area with a substantial number of apartments including senior housing and is also adjacent to the Bitter Lake Community Center. In addition to completing sidewalks on both sides of the street, the project would build a two-way buffered bike lane along the east side of the street, filling in a gap between two completed segments of the Interurban Trail.

The project is about 30% through the design phase with an overall projected cost of \$12M. Funding for the entire project is within the Mayor’s proposed budget. Should that not come to fruition, the current funding in-hand would enable completion of the section from N 130th St to N 135th St.

Discussion:

Mark L – will this connect to the trail on Highway 99?

A: yes, that is the Interurban trail (which is separate from but crosses over 99)

Kristen – are there any specific treatments being included for the elderly?

A: not specifically (discussion was about benches or other sitting areas)

Jon – asked about design of southwest corner at 145h & Linden and whether it could be tightened up, recognizing that bus layover and routing may be an issue

A: not clear whether bus routing could be changed; rebuilding of southwest corner is not currently within the project

Mark B – if only partial funding is available near term, are there any technical reasons not to consider completing one side of the improvements the entire 17 blocks rather than both sides from 130th to 135th?

A: no, not really

Jacob – commented about narrowness and poor quality of existing sidewalk adjacent to the reservoir and asked if something would be done about it

A: project does not currently include replacement of this sidewalk but they would look into the quality issue to see if it needed to be remedied

Third Quarter Pedestrian Master Plan Update

Barbara Gray from SDOT continued last month’s presentation on progress on actions identified in the pedestrian master plan.

Action 5.2A Reclaim & Activate Public Space – SDOT is drafting ordinance language that would add ‘festival street’ and ‘pedestrian plaza’ to the definitions section, which would enable development of a new permit type and client assistance memo

(CAM) to facilitate programming certain spaces. New permit would fall somewhere between that needed for a block party and that needed for large special events. Thought is that the designation of festival streets would be done through Neighborhood Plan updates.

5.3A Lighting – SDOT, in conjunction with Seattle City Light, has completed an inventory of pedestrian scale lighting in the city and also the lighting districts and design catalog (design options for light fixtures). Will be working to develop a framework for update to lighting priorities by overlaying pedestrian master plan priorities with crime data, lighting districts, and inventory.

6.3A Pedestrian Safety Education – introduced this subject by noting that councilmember Rasmussen suggested that the campaign should continue for five years in the same location as the first year (downtown) in order to monitor effectiveness; that is the plan. Campaign will be similar to last year with slight changes to the modes of marketing – an example is the use of umbrellas and an umbrella dance this year.

2.2 Prioritize Pedestrian Connections – King St Hub strategic planning effort is underway; look for opportunities for SPAB involvement.

Board Nominations and Elections

Chair position and Vice Chair position each has one nomination. No nominations for Secretary. Chair Tom W. suggested a common vote for both positions, which resulted in a unanimous 'yes' with no abstentions. Christina Bollo will be Chair and Kristen Lohse will be Vice Chair beginning with the December 2010 meeting. Secretary will be filled temporarily on a to-be-determined basis.

Board Round Robin

Christina

Update from Tri-Party meeting – Mercer East project has unmarked a crosswalk on Westlake Ave near South Lake Union Park. Christina noted a mis-statement by SDOT project manager that it had been 'closed', but that some of the freight representatives were happy to hear that it had been closed. Christina said that we ought to assess the situation and perhaps provide our thoughts on whether closure of the crosswalk was in fact a good idea until construction is completed in the area.

Snow/Ice plan will be presented to council on Nov 22nd if anyone is interested

Airport Way and Marginal Way rechannelizations – MW is a big deal for freight interests and it may be getting in the way of AW in Georgetown. SPAB should consider a letter to weigh in on the issues

Jen

Went to budget hearing and spoke; also recently formed a walking group in her neighborhood

Seth

Led a walking audit with Sound Seniors in Rainier Valley area; during walk a debate amongst SDOT and SPD about countdown timers and legal pedestrian movements occurred. Seth is going to follow up on the issue.

Kristen

Is involved with Mercer West project as part of work; participating in the Fairview & Fairview intersection improvement effort – key issues are parking and business access

Greg

Working with some other students and faculty to see if they can't develop a specific transportation curriculum within the urban planning department

Jon

Also went to budget hearing and spoke; interested in idea of closing Pike Pl (even for certain hours of the day) and discussion of 'festival streets' piqued it even more

Ben

Commented that he is walking differently now that he has a dog. Commented about how it has changed the pace of his walks as well as now 'stopping to smell the roses'

Mark L.

Also went to budget hearing and spoke

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.